

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

July 23, 1998

MINUTES

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met in Senate Room B of the General Assembly Building, Richmond, Virginia on Thursday, July 23, 1998 with the following members present:

Mr. Kirk Schroder, President	Mrs. Susan Noble
Senator J. Brandon Bell, Vice President	Mr. Robert H. Patterson, Jr.
Mrs. Jennifer C. Byler	Senator John W. Russell
Mr. Mark C. Christie	Mrs. Kay C.
James	Mr. Paul D. Stapleton
	Secretary and Superintendent of Public Instruction

Mr. Schroder, president, presided and called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Senator Russell gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Russell made a motion for approval of the minutes of the June 25 meeting. Copies of the minutes had been distributed previously to all members of the Board for review. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Byler and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Schroder stated that the meeting will adjourn after meeting with the Virginia School Board Association. The motion was made by Senator Russell, seconded by Mrs. Noble, and carried unanimously for approval of the agenda as amended.

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

There was no discussion of current issues by Board members or Superintendent of Public Instruction.

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion was made by Mrs. Byler, seconded by Mrs. James, and carried unanimously for approval of the consent agenda.

- \$ Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans
- \$ Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List
- \$ Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund
- \$ Waivers of the School Breakfast Program

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans

The Department of Education's recommendation for approval of three new applications in the amount of \$15,000,000 subject to final approval by the Office of the Attorney General, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Buena Vista City	Buena Vista High School	\$7,500,000.00
Pulaski County	Critzer Elementary	2,500,000.00
Pulaski County	Snowville Elementary	5,000,000.00
	TOTAL	\$15,000,000.00

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List

The Department of Education's recommendation is that funds be released for five projects in the amount of \$9,470,564, that funding for three projects in the amount of \$15,000,000 be deferred and the projects placed on the First Priority Waiting List, and that Fluvanna's project for Central Elementary be increased from \$5 million to \$6.5 million and be moved to the bottom of the First Priority Waiting List in accordance with the Board's policy.

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COUNTY, CITY, OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Russell County	Castlewood Elementary	\$880,411.00
Suffolk City	Central Elementary	5,000,000.00
Russell County	Sword-s Creek Elementary	440,153.00
Nottoway County	Burkeville Elementary	1,463,560.00
Nottoway County	Blackstone Primary	1,686,440.00
	TOTAL	\$9,470,564.00

FIRST PRIORITY WAITING LIST

COUNTY, CITY, OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Buena Vista City	Buena Vista High School	\$7,500,000.00
Pulaski County	Critzer Elementary	2,500,000.00
Pulaski County	Snowville Elementary	5,000,000.00
Fluvanna County	Central Elementary	6,500,000.00
	TOTAL	\$21,500,000.00

Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Loan Fund

The Department of Education's recommendation for approval of the financial report on the status of the Literary Loan Fund as of May 31, 1998, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

Waivers of the School Breakfast Program

The Department of Education's recommendation to waive first review and to approve the exemption beginning in September 1998 and ending June 30, 2000, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following persons spoke during public comment period.

Laura Wimmer
Kenton Pattie

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were presented:

Resolution Recognizing the Collaboration Between AT&T and the Virginia Science Museum on the Implementation of the Science Standards of Learning was presented to Bobby Thalheimer representing Science Museum of Virginia and Candace Humphrey and Richard Hack representing AT&T.

Resolution Recognizing Dr. Daniel A. Domenech, Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools as the Incoming President of the National American Association of School Administrators. Due to a previous commitment, Dr. Domenech was not able to attend.

First Review of Local School Division Superintendent Advisory Group-s Proposed Revisions to the School Performance Report Card

The Superintendent of Public Instruction convened a committee of Division Superintendents representing each of the eight Superintendents- Regions. The committee was chaired by Dr. Stewart Roberson, Superintendent of Hanover County Public Schools.

This item was presented by Dr. Stewart Roberson. Mr. Christie made a motion to accept the changes recommended by the Superintendent-s Report Card Committee, giving sole authority to the President of the Board to make further changes consistent with the intent of the Superinendent-s Report Card Committee, without further consultation and approval by the Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Byler and carried unanimously. Mr. Schroder suggested that the committee should meet again as soon as possible.

Report and Review of Gubernatorial Request Concerning the Early Intervention Reading Initiative

A status report of the Early Intervention Reading Initiative after the initial year of implementation was presented by Dr. Jim Heywood, Director, Elementary/Middle School Education, Department of Education. He was assisted by Linda Poorbaugh, English Specialist, Department of Education; Brenda Ball, Director of Instruction, Mecklenburg County Public Schools; Joan Phipps, Instructional Specialist, Title I Reading Program, Richmond City

Public Schools; and Mary Mascal, Director, Elementary Education, Hanover County Public Schools. The report was accepted by the Board.

Declaration of Support for the Virginia Early Reading Initiative

WHEREAS, in his Inaugural Address, Governor James S. Gilmore III, promised the people of the Commonwealth that he would demand no less than excellence from our public schools, pledging *INo goal could be more noble as we advance into the Twenty-first Century than making Virginia's system of public education the very best.* and

WHEREAS, the vision set by Governor Gilmore calls forth renewed commitment on behalf of the young people of Virginia, all of whom so rightfully deserve strong schools with clear and high standards of achievement that prepare them for the challenges of today and tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, fundamental to success is learning to read, an indispensable skill that must be mastered in the early years of schooling in order that students may continue to learn science, literature, history, and mathematics, and all other academic subjects that are essential to achievement in school and in life; and

WHEREAS, while the evidence shows that nearly one out of every five children today has difficulty learning to read, study after study confirms that the incidence of such deficits may be significantly reduced if children are diagnosed early and if they receive research-based interventions in the early grades; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Early Reading Initiative is a program focused on reducing, by the end of first grade, the number of children with reading problems through early diagnosis and correction of reading deficits; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Early Reading Initiative provides for a statewide literacy assessment to identify and provide additional instruction for children in kindergarten or first grade who do not have the early literacy skills necessary for success in learning to read;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education declares its strong commitment to and unwavering support for the Virginia Early Reading Initiative as a positive and effective program for improving the reading skills of Virginia's children;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Board of Education invite organizations representing professional educators, parents, and other concerned citizens and groups of this Commonwealth to join in forming a community of support for the Virginia Early Reading Initiative, as attested by their signatures on this Declaration.

Adopted This Twenty-third Day of July 1998

Mrs. Byler made a motion to adopt the Virginia Early Reading Initiative Resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christie and carried unanimously.

The Resolution was signed by the following:

Dr. Deanna Gordon, President, Virginia Association of School Superintendents
Mr. John Craig, President, Virginia School Boards Association
Mrs. Lois Cumashot, President, Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers
Mr. Thomas Hanisch, President, Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals
Mr. Russell Fleshman, President, Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals
Mrs. Cherri James, President, Virginia Education Association
Ms. Donna Moody, Vice-President, Virginia State Reading Association
Ms. Gail Pope, President, Virginia Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development
Mr. John Sanville, Executive Vice-President, Virginia Chapter, American Federation of Teachers
Mrs. Robin Jarrette, The Family Foundation
Mrs. Helen Blackwell, Chairman, Eagle Forum
Mrs. Patricia Phillips, Concerned Women of Virginia
Mr. Ron Headland, Virginia Business Education Partnership
Mr. Ken Tilley, Virginia High School League
Ms. Kimberly Failon, Virginia Council for Private Education

Mr. Schroder presented the Resolution to Mrs. Cheri Yecke, Deputy Secretary of Education for Governor Gilmore.

Final Review of Requests for Increased Graduation Requirements

A number of local school boards have sought and received approval of additional requirements since the adoption of the new accrediting standards. Because of the number and variety of requests being submitted, the State Board asked some of the local boards that had submitted requests to hold them until the State Board could develop guidelines for reviewing and acting on local requests. The State Board adopted guidelines at its meeting on June 25. Mr. Charles Finley presented this item and said that requests from six school divisions were held over from the March meeting.

Bristol City

Mr. Christie made a motion to approve an additional unit of credit in History/Social Science and disapprove an additional unit in Computer Information Systems for the Standard Diploma. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Byler and carried unanimously.

Mr. Christie made a motion to give Bristol City the authority to add an additional unit of credit for Fine/Practical Arts and allow them to add an additional unit of credit for Computer Information Systems for the Advanced Studies Diploma. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously.

Essex County

Mrs. Byler made a motion to give permanent approval to Essex County's request for an additional unit of credit in History/Social Science for the Standard Diploma and deny Essex County's request to require a Vocational and Computer Course. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christie and carried unanimously.

Washington County

Mrs. Byler made a motion to deny the (standard diploma) request from Washington County to require four units of credit in a marketable skill if students do not intend to go to college. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christie and carried unanimously.

Wise County

Mr. Christie made a motion to approve the request from Wise County to add an additional two electives on the Standard Diploma. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Byler and carried with seven yes votes. Senator Bell abstained.

Mr. Christie made a motion to approve the request to add an additional four electives to the Advanced Studies Diploma. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Byler and carried unanimously.

First Review: Initiation of Administrative Process Act Procedures for Defining Criteria for Board of Education Vocational Seal on Diploma

This item was presented by Diane Atkinson, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Education. The Board of Education is requested to authorize the preparation and submission of the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action package (as required by the Virginia Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number Twenty-five (98) pre-NOIRA requirements) in order to amend 8 VAC 20-131-50(D): Awards for Exemplary Performance in the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*. This action is necessary in order to incorporate new language as required by *Code of Virginia* '22.1-253-13:4(F), as enacted by the 1998 session of the General Assembly.

The Administrative Process Act (APA) procedures must be initiated in order to add the necessary language to the Board's regulations.

Senator Russell made a motion to waive first review and approve pre-NOIRA. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Byler and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Byler made a motion to authorize the preparation and submission of the appropriate Notice of Intended Regulatory Action package (pre-NOIRA) as required by Executive Order Number Twenty-five (98). The motion was seconded by Mr. Christie and carried unanimously.

First Review of Nominations to the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL)

This item was presented by Dr. Thomas Elliott, Assistant Superintendent, Teacher Education and Licensure, Department of Education. Section 22.1-305.2 of the *Code of Virginia* requires that appointments to ABTEL be made by the Board of Education. The members of the Advisory Board are appointed for three years and may serve two consecutive terms. Two positions on ABTEL are currently vacant. The vacancies represent the nonpublic (secondary) school position and the citizen at large position.

Mrs. Noble made a motion to waive first review. The motion was seconded by Mrs. James and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Noble made a motion to appoint Sally K. Boese to serve a three-year term in the nonpublic school (secondary) category and E. Wayne Harris to serve a three-year term in the citizen at large category effective July 1, 1998 to June 30, 2001. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously.

Report of the Results from the Literacy Passport Testing Program, Spring 1998 Administration

This item was presented by Cam Harris, Assistant Superintendent for Testing and Assessment. Mrs. Harris indicated that this will be the last report of the Literacy Passport Test (LPT) for sixth-grade students and students in Grades 7-12 who have not yet passed all parts of the LPT. Students in grade six in 1997-98 took the LPT for information only. Results for these students will be used for guidance related to remediation and special programming. The 1997-98 sixth-grade class will be the first (i.e., the graduating class of 2004) who will be required to meet the new graduation requirements related to verified credit.

**MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VIRGINIA
SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION**

The Board of Education met with the following representatives from the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA): Mr. Chip Craig, President; Mr. David Blount, Director of Governmental Relations; and Dr. Frank Barham, Executive Director.

Mr. Craig extended an open invitation to all Board members to attend any or all meetings of the VSBA. Mr. Craig also suggested that the board adopt a separate diploma called *Occupational Technology Diploma* instead of Vocational Education Diploma. A copy of *Charter Schools Manual for Virginia School Board, 1998, VSBA* was given to Board members.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Schroder adjourned the meeting of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 12:00 p.m.

President

Secretary of the Board